

Milwaukee's working men and women. Tom's leadership and dedication to the labor movement will be sorely missed by all who have had the pleasure of working with him.

But Tom's service to the community has extended well beyond his position at the Labor Council. Through the years, he has diligently given of his time and talents to a wide variety of boards and commissions in our city, county and in our state.

Even as he retires, Tom continues to work to make the community he loves an even better place to live and work. He has asked that any contributions to a recognition dinner in his honor be given to fund an industrial machine shop at the new Lynde and Harry Bradley Technology and Trade School in Milwaukee. These contributions will help ensure that our community will have the skilled labor force it needs for generations to come.

And so it is my great pleasure to join with Tom's family, co-workers and friends in wishing him a long and happy retirement. Congratulations, Tom!

TRIBUTE TO THREE MISSOURI
PHYSICIANS: DR. GREGORY
GUNN, DR. RAY LYLE, AND DR.
RUTH KAUFFMAN

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to three excellent physicians who have devoted most of their lives to healing. These dedicated doctors practiced together at the Gunn Clinic in Versailles, Missouri for over forty years.

Dr. Jack Gunn is a fourth generation physician extremely passionate about his work. He was a true pioneer in his field, in a time when there were few medical specialists. Dr. Gunn made house calls around the state and performed difficult surgeries when internal medicine was still a largely unexplored territory. This exemplary citizen thrived on working long hours, and his shifts often lasted 36 hours, with only 12 hours off. Additionally, Dr. Gunn served as the coroner of Morgan County for 16 years. He continues to be fascinated by the world of medicine and loves the daily challenges it presents him. Dr. Gunn and his wife Glenda married eight years ago. He has five children.

Dr. Ray Lyle served at the Gunn Clinic from August, 1952 until his retirement on August 31, 1995. As a family physician, Dr. Lyle treated patients of all ages with consistent kindness and compassion. His exceptional accomplishments are publically recognized by the medical community, and Dr. Lyle has served as a member and fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, as a Diplomat of the American Board of Family Physicians, and as President of the Missouri Academy of Family Physicians. As well as a competent physician, Dr. Lyle has been an active participant in the affairs of his community, contributing to such organizations as the Boy Scouts, the Morgan County School Board, and the medical corps of the United States Naval Re-

serves. Dr. Lyle is a formidable citizen who has well served the city of Versailles and the Morgan County Community.

Dr. Ruth Kauffman contributed overwhelmingly to the Gunn Clinic for over forty years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the vote on final passage of H.R. 435, Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act. If I had been present I would have voted "aye".

CONGRATULATING EXCEPTIONAL PARENTS UNLIMITED OF FRESNO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Exceptional Parents Unlimited of Fresno for receiving the Daily Points of Light Award from the Points of Light Foundation in Washington, D.C. The Points of Light Foundation, established by President George Bush, recognizes individuals and groups that give service to their communities.

Exceptional Parents was founded 22 years ago by registered nurse Marion Karian, who still runs the organization today. It began as a support group at University Medical Center of Fresno, California, for parents of children with Down Syndrome, and has grown into a large, non-profit organization, which serves the family members of children with special needs. Marion states, "When there is a child with disabilities it affects the whole family. Our approach is to help the whole family."

The heart of the organization's program is providing support, education and advocacy assistance to families of disabled children, including siblings and grandparents. An early-intervention program targets families with children up to three years of age. It offers developmental assessments and assistance including occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy. It enhances the development of infants and toddlers with disabling conditions and minimizes their potential for development, delays. There is also a Family Resource Network which provides multicultural parent training and information, a Safe and Healthy Family program and Child Abuse Prevention services which is one in seven in the state, funded by the Department of Social Services. All of these services are free to the public.

"We can give out lots of technical information, and we do," says Marion, "but what parents can do for other parents is empowering. When a new parent gets together with an experienced parent and finds out he is not in isolation, not alone, they connect. We strengthen families and enable them to handle their own situations, that is the thread of who and what we are."

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Exceptional Parents Unlimited for receiving the Daily Points of Light Award. The service of emotional and educational empowerment is invaluable to families of disabled children. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing this organization many years of continued success and service to their community.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FOOD SAFETY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to rise today in support of improving the safety of foods which are imported into our country by introducing the Imported Food Safety Improvement Act of 1999. It's vital that we pass this bill into law this year, and I'm proud to lead the effort in the House of Representatives.

We must act now to improve our food safety system so we don't face the health problems we've seen over the past several years caused by unsafe imported food. In 1987, the FDA recalled soft cheese from France after a pathogen was found that could cause miscarriages and sometimes death. In 1998, canned mushrooms from China caused four outbreaks of a form of food poisoning that can be fatal. In 1996, Guatemalan raspberries infected 7,000 people with an intestinal parasite that caused sickness. In 1997, 180 school children were infected with Hepatitis "A" in 1997, after eating strawberries imported from Mexico.

According to the FDA, all these incidents could have been prevented had the Imported Food Safety Improvement Act been law. Public health experts estimate that foodborne pathogens kill 9,000 people every year and cause illness in up to 33 million. And the problem is getting worse.

HHS officials project that the reported incidences of foodborne disease will increase 10-5 percent during the next decade at a cost of up to \$35 billion a year in health-care costs and losses in productivity.

In 1998, a GAO study confirmed that, under the current food safety system, the Federal Government can't ensure that imported foods are safe for consumption. While the volume of imported food has doubled over the last five years, the number of FDA inspections has decreased during the same time period. The result is that the FDA is able to inspect less than 2 percent of all imported food. We're losing the battle against foodborne illness. The Imported Food Safety Improvement Act gives the FDA the authority to ban food from countries or importers that have a history of importing contaminated food.

The Act establishes an equivalency authority which requires that food offered for import to the U.S. be produced, prepared, packed, or held under systems that provide the same level of protection as the United States. This bill lays out the criteria for when the FDA can deny a food import and makes clear that denial cannot violate any current trade laws. By establishing this health-based standard, we